

HARIDAS
CONTEMPORARY

PRESS RELEASE

NOBODY EXISTS IN A STILL LIFE

A Solo Presentation by Minstrel Kuik

20 Sep – 19 Oct 2025

Address: Tanjong Pagar Distripark, 37 Keppel Road Unit 04-01F, S. 089064

Gallery Hours: Thurs – Sat, 12 noon – 7 pm

Sun, 12 noon – 5 pm

Wed by appointment only

Mon, Tues, PH: Closed

Haridas Contemporary is excited to announce Malaysian artist Minstrel Kuik (b. 1976) first solo exhibition with the gallery. An opening reception will be held at its space at Tanjong Pagar Distripark on 20 Sep 2025, 5 – 8 pm.

Kuik presents a new body of work comprising of eight paintings and four fabric-based installations, which develop almost three decades of an artistic career spanning photography, painting, drawing, and installation. As extended meditations on process and methodology, these works highlight Kuik's deep examination of the artistic process, something tantamount to a phenomenology of artmaking.

The paintings of still-life arrangements incorporate elements of previous photographic works and studies, to which Kuik further incorporates found objects from the artist's studio. Illusionistic in effect, the paintings are the result of Kuik's attempts to observe, internalise, translate, and manifest the visible world through her own interior landscapes. For Kuik, these are exercises in perception and sensorial coordination; they activate the play of subjectivities and perceptions that the artist organises, consciously and unconsciously, in the moment of artmaking.

These investigations of what might be called the *Gestalt* in the workings of the artistic consciousness also inform the series of fabric installations presented here. Suspended from horizontal rods, the installations expand on Kuik's broad approaches to painting and sculpture, turning ready-to-wear garments and other textile scraps into assemblages that transpose and translate materiality into figuration, and figuration into political, gendered, corporeal subjects. The recurrent motif of the leopard stalks these works with its associations of rebellion, desire, and instinct; for Kuik, these are aspects of a collective unconscious that drive artistic decisions and form the basis of artmaking as a risk-taking enterprise.

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Haridas Contemporary is a gallery founded by Christiaan Haridas that aims to support and grow alongside Singapore's burgeoning contemporary art scene. The gallery endeavors to create a home for emerging and mid-career Singapore and Singapore-based artists, while maintaining a satellite program with regional artists.

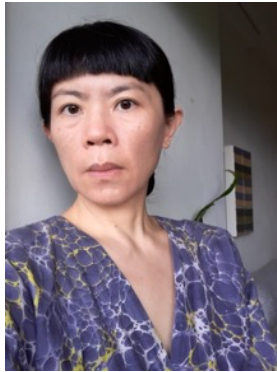
With 17 years of experience in the Southeast Asian art market, Christiaan hopes to advocate for promising art practices that are sensitively crafted and offer interesting entry-points into the stories and concerns of contemporary life.

The gallery is committed to supporting artists throughout their artistic careers by seeding opportunities for exhibition, dialogue, and professional counsel. Haridas Contemporary will rally for exciting local practices to be recognised across regional and international platforms.



Haridas Contemporary is a member of the Art Galleries Association Singapore (AGAS).

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Minstrel Kuik (b. 1976, Malaysia) left her hometown Pantai Remis at 18 years old. After earning a Bachelor of Fine Art degree in Taiwan, she obtained her master's degree in photography in Arles, France. Kuik works across a range of mediums, including photography, drawing, poetry, textile, mixed-media assemblage and installation, with a focus on women's writing (*Écriture féminine*).

The access to different cultures through her multilingual education has come amid the first awareness about the politics of place, gender and identity, to which her migratory body has to constantly conform or reinvent. With a belief that the private space is the major battlefield of ideological, political and economic interests, she explores art as a historical trajectory where the personal mutation through the process of reading, thinking, making, revisiting and counterbalancing is traceable, and hopefully, reflective and transformative.

Kuik has exhibited widely in Southeast-Asia and overseas institutions such as National Gallery Singapore; Singapore Art Museum; Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei; Horsham Regional Art Gallery, Australia; Ilham Gallery, Malaysia; FotoFest, Houston; Photoquai, Musée du quai Branly, Paris; Higashikawa Photo Festival, Higashikawa, Japan; and at the Lishui Biennial Photography Festival in China. Her awards include the Regional Winner of one-month Fukuoka Asian Art Museum residency (2015); Winner of the UOB Painting of the Year (2014) for the Established Artist Category, Malaysia; Winner of the International Photographer Award (2013), Higashikawa Photo Festival Japan. Public collections include: Singapore Art Museum (SAM), Higashikawa International Photo Festival (Japan), United Overseas Bank (Singapore).

Selected Works_

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Lovers (2025) by Minstrel Kuik
76 x 102 cm
Acrylic on Canvas



The Probables (2024) by Minstrel Kuik
60 x 50 cm
Acrylic on Canvas

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The Latitude of Dream (2024) by Minstrel Kuik
60 x 50 cm
Acrylic on Canvas



The Escape (2024) by Minstrel Kuik
50 x 40 cm
Acrylic on Canvas

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Ways of Attaching (2025) by Minstrel Kuik
210 x 170 cm
Prêt-à-porter garment, polyester fiber filling, scrunchy, glove, wooden ring



Night's Falling (2025) by Minstrel Kuik
170 x 170 cm
Prêt-à-porter garment, polyester fiber filling, wooden ring, textile